

REMARKS

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 18, 20 and 24 are rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 18 is now amended to recite, in part, "providing a compound consisting of a targeting moiety directly bound to a leaving group having chemical characteristics capable of facilitating separation of the imaging agent from by-products derived from the leaving group; contacting the compound with a solution containing a detectable species to form the imaging agent, and separating the imaging agent from by-products derived from the leaving group." Support for the amendment may be found in at least paragraph 0018 of the specification. Claims 20 and 24 depend from claim 18 and contain all the limitations thereof. It is believed that the rejection is hereby overcome.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 16, 18, 20 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Chambers and US Patent No. 5,264,570 to Johnson, *et al.*

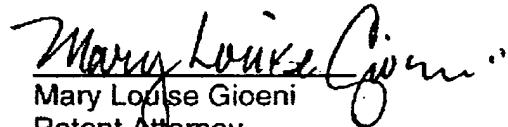
Chambers teaches a process for preparation of fluoro compounds wherein a compound of formula R^1R^2CHOX is converted to its fluorinated analog (col. 1, lines 65-clo. 2, line 5). The product may be "separated, e.g. by filtration, and purified in the usual way" (col. 4, lines 55-65). Example 1 describes a preparation of 2-fluoro-1,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl- α -D-ribofuranose wherein the product is precipitated from the reaction mixture without further purification. Johnson relates to a method for synthesizing 2-fluoro-2-deoxy-D-glucose by contacting 1,2,4,6-tetra-O-acetyl-2-O-trifluoromethanesulfonyl-2-deoxy- β -D-mannose with ^{18}F ion and deprotecting (col. 2, lines 55-67).

Claim 18 is now amended to specify that the leaving group has "chemical characteristics capable of facilitating separation of the imaging agent from by-products derived from the leaving group". Neither Chambers nor Johnson recognize the need for an improved method for separate by-products of the leaving group from the fluorinated

product. Applicants submit that a *prima facie* case has not been established with respect to the claims as amended. It is believed that the rejection is overcome.

Entry of the amendments and reconsideration of claims 18, 20 and 24 in light of the above remarks is respectfully requested. Examiner Schlientz is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions or comments concerning the present application.

Respectfully submitted,


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